

The manner of the Impeachment of the XII. Bishops, accused of High Treason, for preferring a Petition, and making a Protestation, to the subverting the Fundamentall Lawes and Being of Parliaments.

Whereunto is added the said Petition and Remonstrance of the said Bishops.



He House of the Lords was pleased on the 30. of December to send a message to the House of Commons, by Sir John Banks and Iudge Reeves, to desire a present Conference by a Committee of both Houses, touching matters of dangerous and high consequence.

And at the Conference the Lord Keeper in the name of the House of Peeres delivered as followeth:

That this Petition and Protestation of the twelve Bishops, containing matters of high and dangerous consequence, and such as my Lords are very sensible of, and such as require a speedy and sudden resolution; it extending to the deepe entrenching upon the Fundamentall Priviledges and Being of Parliaments. Therefore the Lords have thought fit that this matter, concerning the whole Parliament, may be communicated to the House of Commons, it being a thing of so great and so generall concernment.

This being thus communicated to the House of Commons, they came to this Resolution, To accuse these twelve Bishops of high treason, for endeavouring to subvert the Fundamentall Lawes and Being of Parliaments.

And master Glynn was ordered to goe to the Lords, and at their Bar, in the name of the House of Commons, and all the Commons of England, to accuse these twelve Prelates of High Treason, for endeavouring to subvert the Fundamentall Lawes of the Realme, and the very Being of Parliaments, manifested by preferring that Petition and Protestation; and to desire the Lords that they may bee forthwith sequestred from Parliament, and put into safe custody; and that their Lordships would appoint a speedy day for the Commons to charge them, and they to answer, for that the Commons were ready to make good their Charge.

He was further ordered to give the Lords thanks for communicating this Petition, with so much affection and speed, and for expressing their sense thereof.

After Master Glynn had delivered this at the Bar, the Lords sent the Blacke Rod instantly to finde out these Bishops, and apprehend them: and by 8. of the Clocke at night they were all taken and brought upon their knees to the Bar, and tenne of them committed to the Tower; and two (in regard of their age, and indeed of the worthy parts of one of them, the learned Bishop of Durham) were committed to the Blacke Rod.

To the Kings most excellent Majesty, and the Lords and Peeres now assembled in Parliament.

The humble Petition and Protestation of all the Bishops and Prelates now called by his Majesties Writs to attend the Parliament and present about London and Westminster for that service.



That whereas the Petitioners are called up by severall and respective Writs, and under great penalties, to attend in Parliament, and have a cleare and undubitate Right to vote in Bills, and other matters whatsoever debateable in Parliament, by the ancient Customes, Laws and Statutes of this Realme, and ought to be protected by your Majesty, quietly to attend and prosecute that great Service.

They humbly remonstrate and protest before God, your Majesty, and the Noble Lords and Peeres now assembled in Parliament, That they have an indubitate Right to sit and vote in the House of the Lords, so are they, if they may be protected from force and violence, most ready and willing to performe their duties accordingly. And that they doe abhorminate all actions or opinions tending to Popery, and the maintenance thereof; as also, all propension and inclination to any malignant party, or any other side or party whatsoever, to the which their owne reasons and conscience shall not move them to adhere.

But whereas they have beene at severall times violently menaced, affronted and assaulted by multitudes of people in their coming to performe their Services in that honourable House, and lately chased away and put in danger of their lives, and can finde no redresse or protection, upon sundry complaints made to both Houses in these particulars.

They likewise humbly protest before your Majesty, and the noble House of Peeres, that saving unto themselves all their Rights and Interests of sitting and voting in that House at other times, they dare not sit or vote in the House of Peeres untill your Majesty shall further secure them from all affronts, indignities and dangers in the premisses.

Lastly, whereas their feares are not built upon phantasies and conceits, but upon such grounds and objects, as may well terrifie men of good resolutions, and much constancy. They doe in all duty and humility, protest before your Majesty, and the Peeres of that most Honourable House of Parliament, against all Lawes, Orders, Votes, Resolutions, and Determinations, as in themselves Null, and of none effect; which in their absence, since the 27. of this instant month of December, 1641. have already passed; as likewise against all such as shall hereafter passe in that most Honourable House, during the time of this their forced and violent absence from the said most Honourable House; not denying, but if their absenting of themselves were wilfull and voluntary, that most Honourable House might proceed in all these premisses, their absence, or this their Protestation notwithstanding.

And humbly beseeching your most Excellent Majesty to command the Clerke of that House of Peeres, to enter this their Petition and Protestation among his Records.

They will ever pray to God to blesse and preserve, &c.

Io. Eborac.
Thomas, Duresme.
Robt Co. Lich.
Ios. Norwich.
Io. Asaplen.
Guil. Ba. & V Vells.



Geo. Hereford.
Rob. Oxon.
Ma. Ely.
Godfr. Glouc.
Io Peterburg.
Mor. Llandaff.

George Stanwiche.